(c) what are the details of the steps taken to develop those degraded forest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) No estimate has been made of the extent of degradation in the country, State-wise.

(c) Stpes taken to develop these degraded forests involve protection of such forests from grazing, fires, encroachment and restriction on fellings especially in hilly areas. An area of 9 million hectares of degraded land is targetted for regeneration during Eighth Five Year Plan by suitable reafforestaion prorgamme.

Pollution Caused by Cement Factory in Rajgangpur in Orissa

1450. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cement plant at Rajgangpur in Orissa has not taken adequate air pollution control measures;

(b) wheher the entire Rajgangpur and its adjoining areas are affected due to air pollution; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the cement plant for not taking adequate pollution control measures?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s Orissa Cement at Rajgangpur in Orissa has taken all the necessary air polluton control measures to control air pollution and are meeting the emission standard. The air pollution in that area has decreased considerably after the cement plant has installed the appropriate pollution control devices.

(c) Does not arise.

Irregularities in plantation programme in Orissa

1451. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale irregularities taking place in the plantation programme in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop such irregularities; and

(c) what are the details of different afforestation programme undertaken by Government in that State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) No specific instances of large scale irregularities in the plantation programme in Orissa have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government is implementing the Social Forestry Project in all the districts of Orissa, with assistance from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The main components of the project are establishment of village woodlots, reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, farming for the rural poor and farm forestry. In addition, afforestation and social forestry activities are being carried out in Orissa under the Wastelands Development Programme, the Rural Employment Programme and the Drought Prone Areas Programme of the Central Government.

Felling of tress and smuggling of Forest Wealth from Phulbani and Kalahandi Districts of Orissa

1452. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIORNMENT ANE FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale felling of trees and smuggling of valuable species of plants are takin place in Orissa, particularly in Phulban and Kalahandi districts; and